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REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota (U.S. 5,622,246) in view of Kotkata (U.S. 4,863,006). Claim 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota in view of Stoxen (U.S. 6,601,688). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota in view of Spannhake (U.S. 6,267,219).

All of the claims include the following element: "a plurality of marking elements (34) arranged in a line on the flange elements (28) and the bridge elements (30) along the circulating direction and having a limited width perpendicular to the circulating direction." In Applicant's previous response, Applicant argued that the element was not taught or suggested by any of the references. In response, the Examiner states that Applicant's argument is not persuasive because "Kubota discloses marking elements (811, 821, 831) arranged in a non-continuous line on the bridge elements (412, 423) and arranged in a non-continuous line on the flange elements (410, 430)." Applicant respectfully traverses.

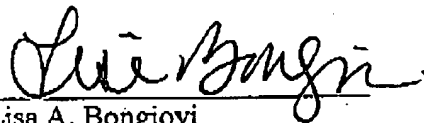
Figure 4 of Kubota illustrates that marking elements 811, 821, and 831 are not arranged on flange elements 410 and 430. Instead, marking elements 811, 821, and 831 are connected at a point on only the bridge elements 412 and 423 and the marking elements are arranged perpendicular to the flange elements. Accordingly, Kubota and the other references do not teach all of the elements of the claim and specifically they do not teach or suggest: "a plurality of marking elements (34) arranged in a line on the flange elements (28) and the bridge elements (30) along the circulating direction and having a limited width perpendicular to the circulating direction." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone

conference with Applicant would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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